

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 11, 1999

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Pease)

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 11, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. A. David Argo, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O God of wind-swept beaches, humid jungles, frozen hills, open fields, rushing oceans, dry deserts, turbulent skies, we come to You on this day fully aware that You know the places and the men and the women who often with certainty and sometimes with puzzlement have risked their futures and given their lives to make possible this process of democracy and the claim of freedom on this place. We thank You for their gift to us and ask that You would embolden us with their courage, trouble us with their sacrifices, and sustain us with their faithfulness so that the fulfillment of the tasks of this day will bespeak our deep gratitude and reflect our serious response to their legacy. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the time for resumption of proceedings on the de novo vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2336 is redesignated as Tuesday, November 16, 1999.

There was no objection.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## HONORING VETERANS ON VETERANS' DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were told that we would have votes on Friday, which is tomorrow; and for those of us that live in California, this is 21 hours back and forth to California and then to return the following day. So I decided to stay here and send messages to my veterans organizations and also to do a special order. Since that time, we found out that there will not be votes tomorrow, that they will not happen until Tuesday.

The men and the women behind me and before me, Mr. Speaker, have come today to pay homage to our veterans. I apologize for keeping them here on Veterans' Day, but I will be brief.

Today is very difficult for many of us, both Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, that, as a retired Navy person, I was shot down on my 300th mission over North Vietnam. I understand and appreciate what this day means to veterans and what it means for their families, for the active duty, the Reserve,

and the Guard, and for our prisoners of war, wherever they may be.

This is our last meeting for Veterans' Day of this century, for we enter the 21st century in this next year.

Like the human search for freedom this century, our peace has come at a very high price throughout this century. For those of us that have seen combat and its horrors resist as a last means engaging into another war.

Many have fought for different reasons in different conflicts, but I can think of no other reason other than freedom that should rise to the top of reasons for conflict.

I would like to think, as we enter this next century, that the world would be free, not only free for individuals, but free of conflict. But, unfortunately, it is still a very serious and dangerous place.

I feel, serving on the Defense Committee on Appropriations, that it is even more dangerous than it was 25 years or even 50 years ago.

I would like to go through a couple of stories I think in honor of some veterans. I heard this first story from Ronald Reagan as he accepted his inauguration on the Capitol steps a few years back.

I would ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, if they have ever heard of a private named Martin Trepto, a very famous individual. I would say that no one listening to this speech or, yourself, Mr. Speaker would know who he is. But let me tell my colleagues his story.

Martin Trepto was a baker that made bread and rolls in France. And during World War I, he closed his shop and he volunteered to go to war because he thought it was his duty.

As Martin Trepto entered the battlefield, he was assigned a position as a messenger. They did not have the fancy electronics that they have today, and many of those messages were carried in a courier's pouch. When Martin Trepto got to the battlefield, the three messengers ahead of him had been killed trying to deliver a message.

Martin Trepto volunteered to take that message forward to the front lines. And like the other three messengers, Martin Trepto was killed.

They found his diary, and in his diary it read: "This has been a very difficult war. I do not know if I will survive it. But I must treat every action of mine as if that individual action would shorten this war and cause freedom for my friends."

How profound is that. How many of us, Mr. Speaker, honor those veterans

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that gave their lives in some cases, that served this country so that if every one of their actions would give us the right to stand here?

The day that I was shot down over Vietnam, the executive officer of the F-92, Commander Blackburn, was also shot down. He did not come back. His backseater, Steve Hoodloff, came back with the rest of the POWs in 1994.

Commander Blackburn's son lived in Poway, California, in my congressional district. And from time to time his son would call and say, "Duke, can I come over and talk about my father?" It was the same questions and mostly the same answers.

Well, a few years later, about 8 years, they brought Commander Blackburn's remains back. Now, it is not like his son wanted to see his father come back. But it was like a 5,000-pound weight had been lifted off that child's back, knowing the reserve and the resolve of what happened to his father.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, that if there is any hope of any POW or MIA coming back, that we must turn over every stone and do everything that we can possible.

Recently I visited North Vietnam. It was very difficult. Pete Peterson, who is a Democrat, now the ambassador to Vietnam, asked me to come and raise the American flag over Ho Chi Minh City for the first time. That was also very difficult to do.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the men and the women of our active duty military and some of our veterans are doing everything that they can, at least in Vietnam, to make sure that our loved ones know the resolve of their family members that did not come back from that war.

Let me tell you about another individual. On 19 January, 1972, I was fortunate enough to survive and shoot down a MiG-21 over North Vietnam, one of five that I shot down. When I got back aboard the U.S.S. *Constellation*, all 5,000 guys, Mr. Speaker, were up on the flight deck. We were trying to get the wings folded, my backseater Willie Driscoll and I, get the arm switches safe. I looked over at the side of the aircraft, and there were the 5,000 guys with Captain James D. Ward, who was skipper of the U.S.S. *Connie*.

Admiral Hutch Cooper was Commander of Task Force 77. And there was my plane captain, Willie Lincoln White, with a big smile on his face. He broke through the crowd, Mr. Speaker. He knocked over Admiral Cooper. And you do not do that in the Navy. As he broke through the crowd, he ran back under the tail feathers of the airplane and jumped up on the port wing, and he came down the turtle back as I am trying to get the ejection seat pinned into the airplane, and he grabbed me by the arm and he said, "Lieutenant Cunningham, Lieutenant Cunningham, we got our MiG today, didn't we?"

What was Willie White telling me, Mr. Speaker? That he was a very important member of a team, that he was a United States serviceman, that I only deserved about one-five-thousandth of the credit.

From Ramirez, the Filipino cook that used to fix our double egg, double cheese, double fry burger every night, to the guys that put the hydraulic pumps in the airplane to the fuel, if you can imagine an ordnance man forgetting to put an umbilical cord on a missile or a gun so that it did not work, they all deserve credit. That is who we honor today, those veterans who served this country.

I saw plane captains cry when their pilots did not come back. That is how intense and how dedicated they were.

Let me talk of another hero, a veteran, he has asked me not to tell his name, and he is alive today, if I can get through this.

I have a good friend that was a prisoner in Vietnam, and it took him almost 5 years to knit an American flag on the inside of his shirt as a prisoner of war in Hanoi. And on occasion he would take off his shirt whenever they got together with one or two prisoners, and they would hang the shirt with the flag above them to symbolize freedom. And that was fine, until the Vietnamese guards broke in one day; and, Mr. Speaker, they ripped his shirt to shreds. They took out this prisoner, and they brutally beat him all day long.

When they brought him back, he was unconscious. He had broken bones so bad that his fellow prisoners did not think he would survive. And so they took him and put him on a bale of straw and comforted him as much as they could and went back and huddled in a corner.

A few minutes later, they heard a stirring from the POW. He had dragged himself to the center of the floor and started gathering those bits of thread to knit another American flag.

That is what Veterans' Day is. It stands for freedom. It stands for the Constitution of this great country.

□ 1415

I would look at the conflicts that we have had over the last 5 years, and I think foreign policy with military policy in many cases has been wrong in my opinion. Our military today is at the lowest that I have ever seen it in 30 years of military service. We are keeping only about 23 percent of our military, our enlisted, in. We are retaining only about 30 percent of our pilots.

Many will say, well, it is just the economy, because they are going out for the jobs and away from the military. That is partially true. But the primary reason is when I talk to these young men and women that are serving on active duty, Mr. Speaker, they are away from their families, from their

wives and from their children, in some cases husband and children for 8 months out of the year and in some cases this has been 4 years in a row. This is during peacetime. That is hard for anybody to be away from their family at 8 months at a time each year.

In Somalia, we lost 22 Rangers, Mr. Speaker, because the White House refused to give them armor. It took us 17 hours to get into Mogadishu. By the time we got there we had lost 22 Rangers. This was the third time that our military leaders had asked for armor. Yet, in Somalia, the warlords are still there. General Aideded has died but his son is still there. And it cost us billions of dollars. In Haiti, we are still spending \$20 million a year in Haiti. The warlords are still there. Aristide is still there. And that cost us billions of dollars.

Iraq, we went in four times over the last 2 years. Each time that Mr. Ritter and them were rejected from inspection, we went to war. It has cost us billions of dollars. And today we are spending a billion dollars, not a million dollars, Mr. Speaker, but a billion dollars a year still in Iraq. Bosnia has cost this country \$16 billion. That does not account for next year, or the following years.

We bombed an aspirin factory in Sudan. The White House just settled for \$50 million because of a mistake. In Kosovo, the total number of people killed in Kosovo before us, the United States and NATO, going into Kosovo was 1,012. One-third of those were Serbs that were killed by the KLA. We destroyed an infrastructure of an entire country. We lost thousands of people. Thousands of people were thrust out of their homes. And today look at the results. Ninety percent of the Serbs have been ethnically cleansed out of Kosovo by the KLA. One hundred eighty orthodox Catholic churches have been destroyed by the KLA. And we are building two \$350 million bases in Kosovo, the United States. Are we going to be there like we are in South Korea, or other places in the world?

And whether you agree with Kosovo or not, we flew 86 percent of all the missions in Kosovo, the United States, 86 percent. Ninety percent of all the weapons dropped were from the United States. And if we are to ask our active duty, our reserve and our guard to fly in these conflicts and other nations not pay their fair share, then at least NATO needs to upgrade its equipment so that they can use the standoff weapons, or they need to pay for it, because before this Congress today, the great debate on are we spending Social Security and Medicare money or not, \$150 billion in these conflicts. In my opinion, there are very few that the United States should have entered in.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is time, as J.C. WATTS said in the Republican Convention in San Diego, we ask God to

come back into our country. I think it is time to secure peace through strength. I would ask, Mr. President, not through weakness, not through BRACs, not through decreasing our defense budget but increasing it.

Recently, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, every one of our four-star generals said we need \$150 billion to bring us up to where we can fight just two wars. I do not want our men and women going to war and having to celebrate or recognize them during Memorial Day because we did not give them the assets. It is time to honor our veterans, our active duty, our reserves, and give them the resources that we promised, and to our veterans as well, Mr. Speaker, because as we honor our veterans today, many of the fellows that I served with, the men and women, are telling their children not to enter active duty service because their benefits have been eroded.

Well, this Congress in a very bipartisan way, with the veterans bill and with the defense bill, came to that call. We provided \$1.7 billion increase for veterans' medical health care, the largest increase since the 1980s. The total funding is \$19 billion for our veterans. It provides a \$5 million increase for veterans' medical and prosthetic research. It provides \$51 million for the veterans benefit administration to expedite claims processing. Many of my veterans and the veterans of every Member in this body, Mr. Speaker, have got veterans saying that those claims take too long. We more than doubled the President's request for veterans' State extended care. My veterans in San Diego County wrote a bill called subvention. It enables our veterans to use Medicare at military hospitals. It actually saves money. But yet we are still limited to a pilot project. Our veterans are saying they are tired of Band-Aids for their promised health care. We need to pass, Mr. Speaker, the FEHBP for veterans. If you have an active duty military and you have a civilian that sits next to them, when they retire, the civilian gets FEHBP, which is a supplemental to Medicare. The military does not. That is wrong. We could help our veterans by passing that as a full substitute and to help them do that as well.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with what I think this day represents. On the 10th of May, 1972, I was shot down over Vietnam. In coming down in a parachute, I thought I was going to be a prisoner of war, or even killed, since the enemy was down below. Air Force, Marine and Navy pilots risked their lives to get my back-seater and I out. In coming down in that parachute, they told us there were two things that would keep you alive. One was having a good family back home, and the other was faith in God. I would tell my veterans, there is going to be a time in each and every

one of your lives, maybe you lose a loved one, maybe you lose your job, but if you get on your knees and you say a little prayer, I guarantee somebody is going to listen to you. It is time, Mr. Speaker, to invite God back into this country. I think as we look forward into the 21st century, how exciting it is, not just communications but health care research and the things that we can do to take care of our veterans.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, by saying God bless the veterans, God bless the active, the Guard and the Reserves, and to our MIAs and our families, do not give up hope. God bless America.

#### FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I wish I was in my district in the State of Washington today to help celebrate Veterans Day with my fellow veterans, my veterans that I represent. I did not serve and I am not a veteran. I wish I were with them, but our schedule did not allow us to do that. But I have come to the floor of the House to express a personal sentiment, if I may, and it is inspired in some degree. This morning I attended the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery where the President spoke, laid the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and something the President said inspired me to come to the well today to say something personal. What he said is that freedom is not free. That is very true.

I got to thinking about some of the things I get to do as a Member of the U.S. House. I get the opportunity, and it is a splendid opportunity, to get to vote in this Chamber, to try to preserve some of our freedoms, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to petition your government for redress. And I get that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to vote to try to preserve those freedoms because of some of the work some people did before me. I have a very personal expression of gratitude I want to give them from the floor. And even though it is personal, I think it is appropriate to do it on the floor.

I want to thank the late Phillip Tindall, who is my wife's great uncle who served in World War I and during an infantry charge was wounded and reported actually dead in the Seattle newspapers. It turned out he survived and he went on to be a great leader in the City of Seattle, helped build Ross Dam and helped a family that I was lucky enough to marry into. I want to thank him.

I want to thank my father Frank Inslee, who served in the Navy in World War II. I want to thank my father. I want to thank my Uncle Bob Brown, who served in the Navy during the Ko-

rean conflict, and as boy I remember hearing tales of him knocking a bomb overboard on an aircraft carrier, something that I remember growing up.

I want to thank my Uncle Evan Inslee, who served in the Air Force during the Cold War, a war that you sort of forget some of the sacrifices veterans made during the Cold War, maybe not so many movies were made about them, but they sacrificed indeed.

And I want to give special tribute to a man none of you have probably heard of, whose name is Bob Grimm. Bob is the fellow who lives on Bainbridge Island, where I live. Bob now builds houses. My son works with him. But the reason I want to pay special tribute to him is that he served and saw intense combat in Vietnam, in the jungles of Vietnam, where he was wounded. I want to pay special tribute to Bob because when Bob and his fellow veterans came home from the Vietnam conflict, they did not come home to real loud parades. They did not come home to a grateful Nation showing its gratitude, frankly, that we should have. I want to pay special personal thanks to Bob and his fellow veterans of the Vietnam War for the service they provided and the continued help so that we could vote in this Chamber for the freedoms that we treasure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Phillip, my father, Bob, Evan and especially Bob and all of their colleagues who made these freedoms dear.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 15, 1999, at 2 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5310. A letter from the Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Changes to the Board of Directors of the NECA, Inc [FCC 99-269] received November 8, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.